Resolution on the March 2002 meeting of the United Nations Committee on Human rights UNCHR in Geneva

2002/2510(RSP) - 07/02/2002 - Text adopted by Parliament, topical subjects

The European Parliament adopted the report on the preparations for the March 2002 meeting of the UNCHR in Geneva. The resolution reaffirms that respecting, promoting and safeguarding human rights is part of the European Union's ethical acquis and one of the cornerstones of European integration. The Parliament welcomes the fact that more and more countries are signing and ratifying human rights conventions, but regrets the growing failure by some countries to transpose their obligations effectively into domestic law and practice. Moreover, it stresses the need for full implementation of such conventions as well as the effective inspection and control mechanism. The Parliament calls on the Council and the Member States to work for the universal ratification of the main human rights instruments available to countries, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the International Convention on the Protection on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and calls on all governments as a matter of urgency, to ratify these conventions without reservation and to implement them. In addition, the Parliament condemns the use of stoning and all forms of degrading and cruel punishment, notably in Iran, and urges other nations such as Nigeria and Saudi Arabia to prevent similar breaches of international human rights. Member States are called upon to appeal to all UN members to ratify or accede to the Rome Statute setting up the International Criminal Court. On the other hand, the Council is called upon to ensure that UNCHR resolutions are incorporated into EU human rights policy, in particular by making regular monitoring and evaluation of their implementation part of the political dialogue between the EU and the countries concerned, and to publicise this fact. The EU Presidency is called upon to sponsor or co-sponsor resolutions on fundamental rights and freedoms versus anti-terrorist legislation and practices. Lastly, the Parliament proposes the establishment of a delegation of MEPs to participate in the forthcoming session and calls on the Commission and the Council to establish full cooperation with this delegation.